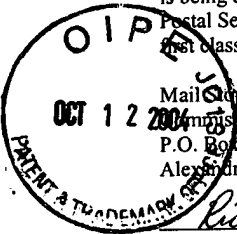


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Richard J. Colchen
Attorney for Applicant

Date: 7 October 2004

Appl. No.: 10/689,336
Applicant(s): Mark Beaumont
Filed: 20 October 2003
Title: METHOD FOR LOAD BALANCING A LOOP OF PARALLEL PROCESSING
ELEMENTS

Art Unit: 2141
Examiner: Not yet assigned

Docket No.: DB001068-000

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
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P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Preliminary to examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

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Richard J. Coldren
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TRANSMITTAL

Enclosed for filing in the above-captioned application, please find the following:

- A Preliminary Amendment.

Also enclosed is a return postcard. Please date stamp and mail the postcard in order to acknowledge receipt of the above-reference correspondence. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0888. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard J. Coldren

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Dated: 7 October 2004